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SUBJECT: Responds to 820327 request for addl info re existing capability for rapid depressurization & DHR w/o PORVs. C-E Owners Group scope of work outlined. Performance & probabilistic evaluations should be completed by Mar 1983.

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February 28, 1983

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Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Attention: Mr. George W. Knighton, Branch Chief  
Licensing Branch No. 3  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

Subject: Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362  
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station  
Units 2 and 3

The NRC's letter of March 27, 1982, requested SCE to provide additional information relative to the existing capability of San Onofre Units 2 and 3 for rapid depressurization and decay heat removal without Power Operated Relief Valves (PORV's). SCE's letter of July 30, 1982 advised the NRC that SCE was participating in the Combustion Engineering Owner's Group (CEOG) effort relative to this issue and that SCE would provide responses to the NRC's request for additional information by June 30, 1983.

The purpose of this letter is to apprise the NRC staff of the current status of the efforts for responding to the NRC's concerns. Because the questions transmitted by the NRC on March 27, 1982, addressed a broad range of concerns relative to the rapid depressurization and decay heat removal issue and peripheral areas, SCE and other affected CE utilities initiated efforts to develop responses under the sponsorship of the CEOG. Substantial time and effort were required to define the scope and criteria for satisfactorily responding to the questions. In August of 1982 the CEOG finalized the scope of work and structured the effort such that the work was separated into the following two major tasks which were initiated/performed in parallel:

1. Performance Evaluation
2. Probabilistic Evaluation

The results of the Performance Evaluation provide the following:

1. A quantitative comparison of the depressurization and decay heat removal (DHR) capabilities of the existing plant design with a plant design incorporating hypothetical PORV's.
2. Assessment of the potential uses of PORV's other than as an alternative depressurization and DHR method.
3. Review of Steam Generator Integrity

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The results of the Probabilistic Evaluation will provide a comparison of the probability for radiological releases and degraded core conditions of the existing plant design with a plant design incorporating hypothetical PORV's.

In order to keep the NRC apprised of the ongoing work, the CEOG met with the NRC on January 12, 1983 and provided the Staff with a status report and preliminary results of the CEOG efforts. On January 27, 1983 in response to a request by the ACRS Subcommittee on DHR, the CEOG also provided the Subcommittee with a similar status report and preliminary results.

Both the Performance and Probabilistic Evaluations should be essentially completed for San Onofre Units 2 and 3 by the end of March, 1983. The initial draft CEOG reports for both tasks are scheduled to be issued for review and comment by participating utility members on April 15, 1983. Both SCE and the CEOG are working toward a schedule which will result in the submittal of the final reports to the NRC for San Onofre Units 2 and 3 by June 30, 1983.

If you have any question or comments, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

*KP Baslin*